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BOOK SAYS POPE GETS REGULAR BRIEFINGS FROM CIA
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POPE JOHN PAUL II RECEIVES REGULAR BRIEFINGS FROM THE CIA AND THE AGENCY HAS BECOME ONE OF HIS MOST TRUSTED SOURCES, SAYS A BOOK BEING PUBLISHED ABROAD THIS WEEK AND IN THE UNITED STATES NEXT MONTH.

"INCREASINGLY, JOHN PAUL'S DECISIONS, HIS POLICIES, HIS SPEECHES AND PRONOUNCEMENTS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CIA BRIEFINGS HE RECEIVES," IT SAYS. "THEY GIVE HIM A POLITICAL OVERVIEW NO OTHER POPE HAS ENJOYED."

THE BOOK, "AVERTING ARMAGEDDON," WAS WRITTEN BY GORDON THOMAS OF IRELAND AND MAX MORGAN-WITTS OF ENGLAND, WHO HAVE COLLABORATED ON NINE OTHER WORKS, INCLUDING AN EARLIER VOLUME ON THE POPE.

IT IS BEING PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND TOMORROW AND IN THE UNITED STATES IN SEPTEMBER.

THE BOOK SAYS THAT BECAUSE OF THE BRIEFINGS, THE POPE LEARNED A WEEK BEFOREHAND THAT THE POLISH TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY WOULD BE OUTLAWED AND ITS LEADER, LECH WALESKI, ARRESTED.

"THE CIA CAUTIONED THERE WAS NOTHING JOHN PAUL COULD -- OR SHOULD -- DO ABOUT THESE EVENTS," IT SAYS. "THIS WAS IMPRESSIVE FOREKNOWLEDGE AND THE POPE WAS PROPERLY IMPRESSED."

THE BOOK ALSO SAYS THAT THE CIA BROUGHT THE POPE THE FIRST NEWS -- IN NOVEMBER, 1982 -- THAT SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV WAS DEAD AND YURI ANDROPOV HAD TAKEN HIS PLACE.

THOMAS AND MORGAN-WITTS WROTE THAT THE CIA IS "A MAJOR INFLUENCE IN FORMING JOHN PAUL'S VIEW OF THE WORLD" AND THAT IT FIRMLY "RETAINS ITS HOLD AS THE VATICAN'S CHIEF ADVISER FROM THE WORLD OF SECULAR INTELLIGENCE."

BOTH THE CIA AND THE VATICAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE BOOK. THE AUTHORS SAID THEIR WORK WAS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH VATICAN AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

ELIZABETH ST. JOHN, A SPOKESWOMAN FOR DOUBLEDAY, SAID SOME REVISIONS WERE MADE IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT BUT THEY DID NOT INCLUDE EITHER "CONSIDERABLE DELETIONS" OR "SUBSTANTIAL EDITORIAL CHANGES."

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